(a) whether it is a fact that Government are formulating a detailed Contract Labour Policy;

(b) if so, the salient features thereof;

(c) by when it is likely to be implemented; and

(d) what steps are being taken to project the labour in this policy?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI MUNI LALL): (a) to (d) Changes in the Contract Labour (Regulation & Abolition) Act, 1970 have been under the consideration of the Government as part of the follow up action on the announcement made in this regard by the Finance Minister while presenting the Budget in February, 2001.

Changes in EPF Act

554. SHRI J. CHITHARANJAN:
SHRI GAYA SINGH:

Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are considering some changes in the Employees Provident Fund Act to help the employees; and

(b) if so, the details of the proposed changes and by when these are likely to be brought about?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI MUNI LALL): (a) and (b) Some changes in the Employees Provident Fund and Miscellaneous Provisions Act, 1952 are contemplated, so as to widen the scope and streamline the implementation of the provisions of the Act. No time frame for implementing the changes can be given at this stage.

Irregularities in EPFO

555. SHRI KHAGEN DAS: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether financial irregularities amounting to several crores of rupees in acquisition of land and construction of office building/staff quarters in the Employees Provident Fund Organisation have come to Government's notice;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the remedial action taken in the matter?*